through its executive committee. In speaking particularly about the Vedar and Kanikkar communities, the Member said that their number was 30,000 and 15,000 respectively and requested that two members might be deputed from those communities to the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly in consultation with the Travancore Vedar Sangham and the Travancore Kanikar Sangham. The Member also prayed that the usual grant-in-aid be paid for a school conducted by the Vedars for the past three years.

The next topic was the representation in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly of the interest of labour in the planting districts. Since the wants and wishes of those depressed classes were not being properly placed before the Assembly at present, the Member requested that at least two members might be nominated from among those communities. Speaking about the disabilities of the Pandyan community, the Member requested that his representation at the previous session of the Assembly to include the Pandyan community among the depressed classes entitled to fee concessions might be considered favourably and orders passed. The Pandyan community should also be given the benefit of the Puduval Rules under which lands were registered on concessional terms to members of the depressed classes. He then mentioned the case of one R. P. Dorai Raj, a Pandyan student who had secured an English School Leaving Certificate of the Madras Government after prosecuting his studies in the C. M. S. High School at Ramnad. The Member pleaded that he might be given admission to the local Pleadership class and given a monthly scholarship of Rs. 15, as also full remission of school fees. Thus, the depressed classes should be encouraged to pursue their studies. He pointed out that a similar concession was being granted to a Sambavar student who was studying in the Pleadership class.

President's reply.—Your suggestion that the special officer proposed to be appointed to look after the needs of the depressed classes should be the Land Revenue Commissioner himself will be noted for consideration.

Your representation *in re.* the change of the name of Pulaya into "Cheramar", and Paraya into "Sambavar" will also receive consideration.

With regard to the registry of swamps and *puduvals* in favour of the depressed classes, your suggestions are noted for consideration and the Government will address the Land Revenue Commissioner as regards the difficulties experienced by the members of the depressed classes at the hands of the revenue subordinates in the matter of *puduval* registry.

As regards the reduction of the fee for registration of associations of the depressed classes to Rs. 5, I may say that a similar proposal is under the consideration of the Government and that your request will be considered sympathetically in that connection.

As regards your suggestions on the subject of the representation of the depressed classes in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council, the nomination of a member from the hill districts to represent the grievances of the poor labourers there, and the inspection by the Darbar Physician and the Sanitary Commissioner of the habitations of the members of the depressed classes, all your suggestions have been noted for consideration.

About the students belonging to your community who have not been appointed as compounders after training, the Darbar Physician will be addressed.

As regards your suggestion that the rule regarding the assignment of *puduval* lands on concessional terms to the members of certain depressed classes should be extended to the Pandyans, I may say that their name will also be added to the list of the depressed classes entitled to such concessions.

165. Concessions to the Hindu depressed classes.

Mr. Kurumban Daivathan (Member, Nominated) first submitted that their caste name should not be changed. He represented that it was not possible for the depressed classes like Pulayas, Kuravas, etc., to exist without the special support of the Government. Having understood that the Government were going to appoint a

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special officer to safeguard the interests of those classes, the Member requested that that officer might be invested with the powers of a Division Peishkar, so as to enable him to deal with all the questions that came up to him satisfactorily. The Member observed that some time ago the Madras Government had appointed a commissioner, with full powers, to safeguard the interests of the depressed classes there. The special officer should be the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

The Member then pointed out that, among the depressed classes, there were several poor boys without any work, who, having studied up to Class VI or VII, left the school for want of the necessary funds to continue their education. He suggested that Government might provide those poor boys with some kind of work, publish their names in the Gazette and arrange that at least for the next two years only members of those communities should be appointed in the ranks of the public service.

He also prayed that the Government might be pleased to grant a scholarship sufficient to meet his expenses to one P. K. Parameswaran, a student in the Ayurvedic College. That was a matter for which the Member moved in several previous sessions of the Assembly. Lastly, the Member prayed for the free admission of the members of the depressed classes to all the grant-in-aid Vaidyasalas and for a Hindu Pulaya representative being nominated as a member of the Legislative Council.

The Member next represented that, as the community which he represented was extremely poor, the pupils thereof should be provided with noon-day meal, especially in view of the fact that those of their community who had been converted to Christianity were being educated at the entire cost of Christian Missionaries. The Member further prayed :—

(1) that primary education might be made compulsory among them ;

(2) that the scholarships awarded to some of the pupils of their community might not be stopped on the score of the holders thereof having failed in the annual examination ;

(3) that Gauri, a girl scholarship-holder who had failed to secure admission into the Midwifery class might be ordered to be re-admitted into Class VI and that the scholarship be restored to her; and

(4) that a law be enacted regulating succession among Hindu Pulayas, as the community had begun to acquire landed properties.

President's reply.—Your representation to the effect that your caste name should not be altered has been noted for consideration. Government would also look into your suggestions in regard to the nomination of a Hindu Pulaya representative for the Legislative Council, and the appointment of the present Co-operative Registrar as the special officer to look to the needs of the depressed classes.

As regards compulsory education and the supply of noon-day meal to the pupils belonging to the depressed classes, I can only repeat the reply I gave to Mr. Aiyan Kali.

As regards the difficulty said to be experienced by the members of your community in the matter of free admission to grant-in-aid-Vaidyasalas, Government will make enquiries as to how many such Vaidyasalas exist at present and why such Vaidyasalas should not be thrown open to all classes of His Highness' subjects.

166. Disabilities of Ezhavas and the steps to be taken by the Government to remove them.

Mr. Karuwa S. Krishnan Asan (Member, Nominated), in protesting against the passage of the Ezhava Bill in its present form, dwelt at length on what he called the mischievous activity of the advanced party of Ezhavas in connection with the Ezhava Bill now passing through the Legislative Council. He once more impressed on the Government the fact that the Bill would never benefit the *misradayee* section. He referred at length to the most questionable manner in which that party was carrying on its agitation both in the Press and on the platform and observed that the set object of that party was to poison the mind of the Government against

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